

We claim:

- 1 1. A system for providing information to a user connected to a data network, the
2 system comprising:
3 a database for storing information;
4 a server associated with the database and having an information module, the
5 information module responsive to a search request signal and sends information from the
6 database corresponding to the search request signal; and
7 a first station for initiating voice conversation with a second station, the first
8 station having a playback module for playing information stored at the first station and a flow
9 controller for determining an amount of bandwidth available to receive information from the
10 database and responsively affecting the receiving of information from said database.
- 1 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station includes means for receiving
2 personal information from a user and sending the search request signal based on said personal
3 information.
- 1 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein while the first station coupled for
2 communication with the information module, the flow controller monitors the amount of
3 bandwidth available to receive information from the database.
- 1 4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station has means for determining
2 whether the information received from the database is properly received.
- 1 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the database stores the information in
2 predetermined categories that the server uses for searching for information corresponding to
3 the search request signal.

1 6. The system of Claim 5, wherein the search request signal from the first station
2 contains a code associated with at least one of the predetermined categories.

1 7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station includes means for storing
2 information received from the database and means for playing at least a portion of said
3 information at a designated time.

1 8. The system of Claim 7, wherein the first station plays at least one portion of the
2 information before establishing a communication channel between the first and second stations.

1 9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the first station receives information from the
2 database after establishing the communication channel between the first and second stations.

1 10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the playback module streams the information
2 received from the database.

1 11. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station is a telephonic device and can
2 establish a communication channel over a packet-switched network.

1 12. The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is advertisements.

1 13. The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is a plurality of music
2 programs.

1 14. The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is a plurality of stock quotation
2 information.

1 15. A first station for providing information to a user connected to a network, the
2 first station comprising:

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3 a user interface for allowing a user to interact with the first station; and
4 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming modules
5 including a call initialization module, a playback module, and a flow controller, wherein the
6 call initialization module initiates voice communication with a second station, the playback
7 module plays information received at the first station, and the flow controller determines an
8 amount of communication bandwidth available to receive information at the first station and
9 responsively affecting the receiving of the information at said first station based on the amount
10 of bandwidth available.

1 16. The first station of Claim 15, wherein the flow controller monitors the amount
2 of communication bandwidth available to receive information from a server while the first
3 station is in communication with the server.

1 17. The first station of Claim 15, wherein the playback module streams information
2 received at the first station.

1 18. The first station of Claim 15, further comprising an error controller for
2 determining whether information received at the first station is properly received.

1 19. The first station of Claim 18, wherein in response to determining the
2 information was not properly received at the first station, causing said information to be resent
3 to the first station.

1 20. The first station of Claim 15, wherein the storage medium providing storage of
2 information received at the first station before playback.

1 21. The first station of Claim 20, further comprising a memory manager for
2 managing a memory allocation of the storage medium.

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1 22. The first station of Claim 15, further comprising a code module for receiving
2 personal information from a user and sending a code associated with the personal information
3 to a server.

1 23. A method for providing information to a user connected to a data network, the
2 method comprising the steps of:
3 establishing a communication channel between a first station and a server, the
4 server associated with a database;
5 identifying information to send to the first station from the database;
6 determining an amount of communication bandwidth available between the first
7 station and the server; and
8 receiving information at the first station responsive to the amount of
9 communication bandwidth available between the first station and the server for providing to a
10 user.

1 24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
2 storing the received information at the first station having a memory; and
3 providing the received information to the user at a designated time.

1 25. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of establishing a
2 communication channel between the first station and a second station.

1 26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of receiving information at the first
2 station occurs after the step of establishing a communication channel between the first station
3 and the second station.

1 27. The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of receiving information at the first
2 station occurs before the step of establishing a communication channel between the first station
3 and the second station.

1 28. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:
2 terminating the establishing of the communication channel between the first and
3 second stations and performing the step of establishing a communication channel between the
4 first station and a third station if said first station sends a connection request to establish the
5 communication channel with the third station.

1 29. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:
2 prior to performing the step of establishing a communication channel between
3 the first and second stations, determining whether the first station sends a connection request to
4 establish a communication channel with a third station; and
5 terminating the establishing of the communication channel between the first and
6 second stations and performing the step of establishing the communication channel between the
7 first and third stations if said first station sends the connection request.

1 30. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving personal information at the first station from a user; and
3 receiving the personal information at the server.

1 31. The method of Claim 30, wherein the step of identifying information to send to
2 the first station is responsive to the personal information received at the server.

1 32. The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of determining whether
2 personal information was already received at the first station from the user.